
If the weather is bad and the sirens sound...

Areas to go to:

- Designated place of safety.
- The innermost and lowest possible floor.
- Take cover under something sturdy.

Areas to stay away from:

- Auditoriums, cafeterias, elevators and gymnasiums.
- Mobile homes and automobiles.

If caught outside:

- Lie flat in a low lying area and make yourself as small as possible.

Remember:

- The **OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS** are *intended* to be heard **ONLY OUT-DOORS**. When it looks like bad weather is approaching, monitor your local radio or television for current weather information. It is also a good idea to get a tone activated battery backup weather radio.

Important Siren Facts:

Tornado Watch - Conditions are favorable for a tornado. Listen to your local radio or television station for further details. Be prepared to move to your safe place.

Tornado Warning - Issued when a tornado has been sighted within or is eminent for Franklin County. **Move to your safe place immediately** when a Tornado Warning has been issued.

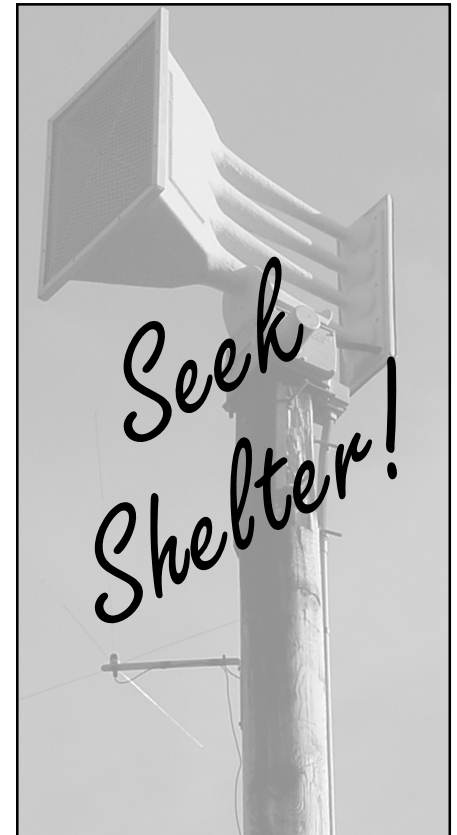
It's against the law to tamper with or damage a siren (ORC 5502.37C). Anyone caught tampering with a siren will be prosecuted and penalized accordingly (ORC 5502.99), Section C.

To report a siren that is not operating properly please notify us at :

(614) 469-9700
Weekdays
8:00am - 5:00pm



WARNING



**Emergency Management
Agency for Franklin County**



General Information...

The Franklin County Outdoor Siren Warning System is one of the largest and most reliable operational systems in Ohio, and the United States. There are still many areas across the country that has no means to warn residents of danger.

The Emergency Management Agency for Franklin County (EMAFC) is responsible for the management and activation of the entire system. Each community owns the sirens within its boundaries, and contracts with EMAFC for operation and support.

The Franklin County Outdoor Siren Warning System has been in operation since the 1940's. The sirens were used originally to call in volunteer firefighters, and in the 1950's to warn the public of a possible nuclear attack. Today the sirens are used primarily to warn of tornados and evacuations within the county.

The most common types of sirens in Franklin County are the WSP3000/4000. These units are directional radio tone controlled with voice capability. Both sirens have a coverage radius of approximately one mile. Currently Franklin County has 134 sirens, and new sirens are being added to the system continuously.



How the System Works...

In the past all sirens had to be set off at one time; activation of an individual siren was impossible. Today however, the radio tone controlled sirens can be activated for a specific area in the county. These sirens also have internal test mechanisms, which send back information to our office indicating if the siren activated properly.

This new system allows us to identify defective sirens, which translates into quicker repairs, which means less down time.

The sirens can be activated from three locations in the county. Each of these sites conducts the Wednesday test at least once a month. This ensures that each activation site is functioning properly.

Our agency recently installed a new computer aided siren activation system. This new equipment allows us to better control and monitors the sirens. We now have the capability to project via computer image onto a large screen all the sirens in the county or isolate certain ones for individual testing.



When the Sirens Sound...

The outdoor warning sirens are sounded only when the National Weather Service *issues* a Tornado Warning for Franklin County.

Once the Tornado Warning has been issued, the sirens will activate for 3 minutes, shut off for 7 minutes during which time a voice announcement will be issued:

“Tornado Warning Seek Shelter”

This warning is repeated as the siren is positioned in all four major directions. This sequence is continued for as long as the warning remains in effect. Once the warning has expired, a second voice message will be announced:

“ Tornado Warning Has Expired”

Although the sirens stop sounding and the warning expires it does not mean that the danger has passed. Heavy rains, hail, lightning, and high winds accompany most tornados. These weather conditions can be just as dangerous as a tornado. Stay inside until you hear on the radio or television that the severe weather has passed.

The outdoor warning sirens are tested every Wednesday at noon, weather permitting. The sirens **are not** tested during potential bad weather to avoid confusion. During this test the sirens are sounded twice for approximately 1 minute. On the first Wednesday of every month, the voice capability is also tested. First there is tone activation, and then the following message is broadcast in all four directions:

“ Testing Franklin County Sirens Testing “